

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2013-298-E - ORDER NO. 2020-____
December __, 2020

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| IN RE: |) | |
| Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, |) | |
| LLC for Approval of New Cost |) | <i>Proposed</i> |
| Recovery Mechanism and Portfolio of |) | ORDER APPROVING |
| Demand-Side Management and Energy |) | PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS |
| Efficiency Programs |) | |
| _____ |) | |

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the request of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (“DEC” or “the Company”) for approval of modifications to its Bring Your Own Thermostat program (“BYOT Program”). The Company filed the proposed modifications on October 2, 2020.

A. Background & the Modifications

DEC’s BYOT Program is administered through the “RIDER PM (SC), POWER MANAGER LOAD CONTROL SERVICE” tariff on file with the Commission, which was originally included as part of the Company’s initial suite of energy efficiency programs approved by Order No. 2009-336 in Docket No. 2009-166-E and was then referred to as the Power Manager program. The program enabled residential customers to receive a credit in exchange for allowing the Company to interrupt service to their central air conditioning systems during times of peak summer demand. The BYOT Program, approved in Order No. 2018-180, permitted the Company to add eligible thermostats and incentives to the program, and permitted the Company to offer the payment of incentives through various methods.

The Company now seeks to modify the BYOT Program to provide for the addition of a winter-focused load control component and to suspend new enrollments in the existing summer-only smart thermostat option after December 31, 2020. The Company is requesting these modifications in recognition of the increased need for load control and peak demand reductions during the winter. The new component is “winter-focused” because, while the tariff contemplates that a majority of the Company’s load interruption events will occur during the winter season, the BYOT Program will continue to permit the Company to interrupt service to cooling systems during summer months.

To acquire customers for the 2020-2021 winter season and to provide assistance to customers struggling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Company is also proposing that winter participants receive an initial program incentive of \$90 through December 31, 2020. After that date, new participants will receive an initial program incentive of \$75. The incentive will be provided to customers in the form of an electronic debit card that can be used for bill payments or other purchases.

On November 13, 2020, the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff filed a letter in this docket indicating that it does not object to the Company’s proposed modifications to the BYOT Program.

B. Findings of Fact & Conclusions of Law

DEP’s proposed modifications would add a winter component to the BYOT Program and provide an increased incentive for initial enrollees to attract customers to the BYOT program ahead of the 2020-2021 winter season. The increased incentive would also provide financial assistance to residential customers who may be struggling due to the COVID-19 pandemic and potentially

serve as a means to help customers that are behind on their electric bills. The Company's proposed modifications are just and reasonable, and are in the public interest.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The modifications to the BYOT Program proposed by the Company are approved as just and reasonable.
2. The Company shall electronically file an updated rider reflecting the changes approved herein.
3. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Justin T. Williams, Chairman
Public Service Commission
South Carolina